

Insight

Gwanwyn 2025 Summer

The official newsletter of
St Joseph's RC High School

Taflen wybodaeth swyddogol
Ysgol Gyfun Gatholig Joseff Sant



SERVING GOD THROUGH LEARNING TOGETHER

YN GWASANAETHU DUW TRWY DDYSGU GYDA'N GILYDD

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Mrs J Jarrett
Headteacher

As we come to the end of this academic year, I'm pleased to share with you our Summer Newsletter, a reflection of the dedication, enthusiasm, and spirit that define our school community.

Headteacher's Message neges y pennaeth

Within these pages, you'll find highlights from a term filled with achievement and adventure: from the energy of our annual Eisteddfod to exciting trips across Wales and even across the Atlantic. Whether it's Year 9 making lifelong memories in Glan-Ilyn, our Art and Media students experiencing the magic of LA, or our digital leaders exploring the future through cyber security, our pupils continue to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

This message is particularly meaningful for me, as it will be my final one as Headteacher. After 25 years at St Joseph's, I will be retiring at the end of this term. It is hard to put into words just how much this school has meant to me. From the first day I walked through the

gates, the warmth, resilience and kindness of this community have moved me. I've had the privilege of watching generations of pupils grow, not only in knowledge, but in character, faith, and confidence.

I leave with an enormous sense of gratitude. Thank you for the support you have given me over the years and, more importantly, for the trust you have placed in our school. It has been an honour to lead St Joseph's and to share in its mission to nurture, challenge, and care for every child.

Wishing you a peaceful and joyful summer, and every blessing in the future.
Mrs J Jarrett, Headteacher

“A fo ben, bid bont.”

Welsh proverb



Gweithdai

Ffodd 20 o ddisgyblion Blwyddyn 10 y cyfle i gwrdd ag Aleighcia Scott, gantores reggae a chyflwynydd radio a theledu o Gaerdydd, Abbie Bolitho sy'n gweithio fel cynhyrchydd teledu llawrydd, Jess Martin sy'n rhannu tips am ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg ar-lein @dysgugydajess a Nick Yeo sy'n podledwr a bardd. Roedd Blwyddyn 10 yn gallu gwrando ar bob un o stori'r personoliaethau Cymraeg am sut mae'r iaith Gymraeg wedi cael effaith ar eu bywyd yn ogystal â defnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg i greu barddoniaeth eu hun gyda'r Bardd Plant Cymru Nia Morais yn Gymraeg a dysgu am sut i ddysgu Cymraeg trwy ddarlunio ar hyd y ffordd gyda Josh Morgan neu Sketchy Welsh.

Cymerodd Blwyddyn 10 ran mewn nifer o weithdai gydag Aleighcia Scott, gantores reggae a chyflwynydd radio a theledu o Gaerdydd, Abbie Bolitho sy'n gweithio fel cynhyrchydd teledu llawrydd, Jess Martin sy'n rhannu tips am ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg ar-lein @dysgugydajess a Nick Yeo sy'n podledwr a bardd. Roedd Blwyddyn 10 yn gallu gwrando ar bob un o stori'r personoliaethau Cymraeg am sut mae'r iaith Gymraeg wedi cael effaith ar eu bywyd yn ogystal â defnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg i greu barddoniaeth eu hun gyda'r Bardd Plant Cymru Nia Morais yn Gymraeg a dysgu am sut i ddysgu Cymraeg trwy ddarlunio ar hyd y ffordd gyda Josh Morgan neu Sketchy Welsh.

Twenty Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to meet and chat with a variety of Welsh speaking personalities to discuss the importance and benefits of speaking Welsh and studying the language as an AS Level subject during July 2025 at Cardiff University.

Year 10 took part in a number of workshops with Aleighcia Scott, a reggae singer and radio and TV presenter from Cardiff, Abbie Bolitho who works as a freelance TV producer, Jess Martin who shares tips about using Welsh online @dysgugydajess and Nick Yeo, a podcaster and poet.

Year 10 were able to listen to each of the Welsh personalities story of how the Welsh language has had an impact on their life as well as using the Welsh language to create their own poetry with the current Wales Children's Poet, Nia Morais, in Welsh and learning about how to learn Welsh by illustrating it along the way with Josh Morgan or Sketchy Welsh.

Roedd y diwrnod yn llwyddiannus iawn ac roedd llawer o Gymraeg yn cael ei chlywed a'i siarad gan y disgyblion.

EISTEDDFOD

Blynyddoedd 7 ac 8 \ Years 7 and 8



Dathlwyd ein heisteddfod flynyddol gan Flwyddyn 7&8 ar yr 2il o Orffennaf a roedd yn ddiwrnod llwyddiannus diolch i waith caled ac ymarferiadau'r disgyblion a'r athrawon.

Rydyn ni'n lwcus iawn gan fod llawer o ddisgyblion talentog gyda ni yn ysgol Joseff Sant a chawson ni ein hadlonni gydag amrywiaeth o ganu ac offeryn cerddorol. Ym Mlwyddyn 7, enillwyd y gystadleuaeth ganu gan Alice Bidhendy (7H) gyda'i pherfformiad o "Top of my School" gan Katherine Lynn-Rose. Roedd lleoedd ail ar y cyd gydag Ariana Champs (7V) a ganwyd "I've been waiting for You" gan ABBA a Sienna Churcher (7O) a ganwyd, "Here's Where the Story Ends" gan Tin Tin Out.

Cawson ni hefyd gerddorion gwych yn perfformio ar y llwyfan ym Mlwyddyn 7 gyda Prince Mthinsi (7E) a chwaraewyd y drymiau gyda George Hassani (7E) yn canu'r gân Bruno Mars a Lady Gaga, "Die with a Smile". Roedd lleoliad ail ar y cyd gyda Justin Weng (7H) gyda pherfformiad hardd ar y piano a'r band Seraphim (Louin Haywood-Woffenden 7E, George Hassani 7E, Darragh Jays 7T a Marcell Ruszi 9E) a oedd yn siglo'r brif neuadd gyda chân Nirvana, "Smells like Teen Spirit".

Ym Mlwyddyn 8, enillwyd y gystadleuaeth ganu unigolyn gan Evie Davies (8P) gyda pherfformiad cryf "Hopelessly Devoted to You" o Grease a daeth Tabby Fomba yn ail gyda'i pherfformiad "I'll rise up" gan Andrea Day. Yn y gystadleuaeth ganu mewn grŵp, cawson ni berfformiad band gwych arall gan Caleb Morgan (8S), Hughie Shearer (8O), Ollie Phillips (8P) a enillwyd gyda'u fersiwn o "The Scientist" gan Coldplay.

Yn ail lle oedd Robyn Chard (8P) yn canu'r gitâr ac yn canu, "I Love You, I Miss You" gan Gracie Abrams gyda Seren Heath (8P) yn canu'r piano a chanodd Emery Repizo (8E), "Viva La Vida" gan Coldplay gydag Arabela Pinera (8S) yn canu'r piano.

Yn y gystadleuaeth ganu offeryn, daeth Emily Porter (8S) yn gyntaf gyda'i pherfformiad clarinét prydferth a daeth Isabella Peter (8T) yn ail gyda'i pherfformiad ffidll hyfryd.

Prif ddigwyddiad y diwrnod oedd cadeirio'r bardd, lle ydyn ni'n gweld enillwyr cystadleuaeth greadigol barddoniaeth yn cael eu coronni a gosgordd i'r llwyfan yn gwisgo clogyn. Ar y llwyfan, chwaraeodd Mrs Davies rhan hen dderwydd sy'n gofyn i bawb y cwestiwn, "A oes heddwch?" Ac mae pawb yn ymateb gan weiddi allan, "Heddwch!"

Llongyfarchiadau i Justin Weng (7H) a Megan Perrott (8T) a enillodd ac am ddarlenn allan eu gwaith felly gallai pawb werthfawrogi eu talentau creadigol.

Gyda chystadlaethau dosbarthiadau, enillwyd cystadleuaeth farddoniaeth gan 7S gyda'u fersiwn o'r gerdd, "Sbwriel" ac enillwyd cystadleuaeth ganu gan 7E gyda "Sosban Fach".

Ym Mlwyddyn 8, enillwyd y gystadleuaeth farddoniaeth gyda'i gilydd gan 8V, gyda'u fersiwn o "Y Fari Lwyd" ac 8T gyda "Tafodau Symudol". Enillwyd cystadleuaeth ganu gan 8S gyda fersiwn hardd o "Calon Lân".

Enillwyr cyffredinol yr Eisteddfod ym Mlwyddyn 7 oedd 7H ac enillwyr cyffredinol ym Mlwyddyn 8 oedd 8S.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i'r barnwyr gweithgar i gyd ac yn gwneud penderfyniadau'n heriol ac i Miss Doyle a Miss Gallagher am helpu gydag eitemau cerddorol!

Da iawn pawb!



"I liked seeing different people cheering for their forms and it was really exciting to find out who had the best poem out of every form over 200 pupils". Laurenz Tamolang 8E



Years 7&8 celebrated our annual Eisteddfod on the 2nd of July and all their hard work and rehearsals paid off to make it a very successful day.

We are very lucky to have lots of talented pupils at St Joseph's who entertained us with an array of singing and musical instruments. In Year 7, the singing contest was won by Alice Bidhendi (7H) with her performance of "Top of my School" by Katherine Lynn-Rose. Second place was tied with Ariane Champs (7V) singing, "I've been waiting for you" by ABBA and Sienna Churcher (7O) singing, "Here's where the story ends" by Tin Tin Out.

We also had some fantastic musicians perform on stage in Year 7 with Prince Mthinsi (7E) playing a fantastic drum set with George Hassani (7E) accompanying him vocally to the Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga song, "Die With a Smile". There was joint 2nd place for Justin Weng (7H) with a beautiful piano recital and the band Seraphim (Louin Haywood-Woffenden 7E, George Hassani 7E, Darragh Jays 7T and Marcell Ruszi 9E) rocking the whole main hall with Nirvana's, "Smells like Teen Spirit". Da iawn pawb!

In Year 8, the individual singing contest was won by Evie Davies (8P) with a powerful performance of "Hopelessly Devoted to You" from Grease and Tabby Fomba (8P) came 2nd with her performance of, "I'll Rise Up" by Andrea Day. In the group singing competition, we had another great band performance by Caleb Morgan (8S), Hughie Shearer (8O), Ollie Phillips (8P) who won with their version of "The Scientist" by Coldplay. In second place was Robyn Chard (8P) playing the guitar and singing, "I Love Uou, I Miss You" by Gracie Abrams accompanied by Seren Heath (8P) on the piano and Emery Repizo (8E) sang, "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay accompanied by Arabela Pinera (8S) on the piano.

In the instrumental competition, Emily Porter (8S) came first with her beautiful clarinet performance and Isabella Peter (8T) came 2nd with her captivating violin performance.

The main event of the day was the chairing of the bard, whereby we see the winner of the creative poetry competition crowned and escorted to the stage draped in a cloak. Once on stage,



Mrs Davies played the part of the ancient druid who asks, "A oes heddwch?" "Is there peace?" and everyone responds by shouting out, "Heddwch!" "Peace!"

Congratulations to Justin Weng 7H for winning with his poem, "My Welsh Identity" and Megan Perrott 8T with her poem, "Beautiful Wales" and for reading their work aloud on stage so that everyone could appreciate their creative talents.

As far as the form competitions went in Year 7, 7S won the poetry competition with their rendition of "Sbwriel" and 7E won the singing competition with "Sosban Fach".

In Year 8, the poetry competition was jointly won by 8V with their version of, "Y Fari Lwyd" and 8T with, "Tafodau Symudol". 8S won the singing competition with a beautiful rendition of "Calon Lân".

The overall winners of the Year 7 Eisteddfod were 7H and the overall winners of the Year 8 Eisteddfod were 8S.

Thank you to all of the hardworking judges for making some challenging decisions and to Miss Doyle and Miss Gallagher for helping with the musical items!

Da iawn pawb!





Enillwyr cystadlaethau oddi ar y llwyfan • Off-Stage competition winners

BLWYDDYN 7 • YEAR 7 BLWYDDYN 8 • YEAR 8

Mathemateg Math

- 1st Audrey Ikena 7S
- 2nd Nola Lixton 7E
- 3rd TJ Alagano 7T

Technoleg Technology

- 1st Lily Emenike 7H
- 2nd Tobiasz Pytel 7O
- 3rd Porscha Smith 7H

Celf Art

- 1st Sienna Churcher 7O,
Sandra Skorza 7O
Natalia Rogojasz 7O
- 2nd Esther Sebastian 7V,
Hannah Jacob 7V,
Adheena Rose 7V
Nevaeh Sebastian 7V
- 3rd Jason He 7T

Dyniaethau Humanities

- 1st Zoe Uveges 7T
- 2nd Layla Carr 7H
- 3rd Jacob Thomson 7O

Saesneg English

- 1st Justin Weng 7H
- 2nd Lydia Gebremedhin 7V
- 3rd Summer Dudley 7S



Mathemateg Maths

- 1st Hayden Sunil 8O
- 2nd Arabela Pinera 8S
- 3rd Gabriel Krawcewicz 8P

Technoleg Technology

- 1st Favour Ekundayo 8V
- 2nd Alfie Fallon 8P
- 3rd Emery Repizo 8E

Celf Art

- 1st Anwen Brunnock 8E
- 2nd Seren Clay 8T
- 3rd Sean Khonje 8H

Daearyddiaeth Geography

- 1st Luke Dinham 8H
- 2nd Lacey Flynn 8T
- 3rd Xanthe Huggins 8V

Saesneg English

- 1st Megan Perrott 8T
- 2nd Emme Jones 8S
- 3rd Antonia Raso-Coulibaly 8J



“Cawson ni benwythnos wych yng Nglan-llyn. Roedd yn syfrdanol i weld pob dysgwr yn cael llawer o hwyl, ac yn cyfranogi. Yn fy marn i, padelfwrddio oedd y gorau!” **Mr O Davies**



“We all had a fantastic weekend at Glan-llyn. It was amazing to see all the students having fun and getting involved. My favourite part was the paddleboarding!” **Mr O Davies**



Ar ddiwedd tymor brysur yr haf aeth Adran y Gymraeg i Wersyll yr Urdd Glan-llyn yng Ngogledd Cymru gyda 44 o ddisgyblion blwyddyn 9. Roedd y daith pedair awr yn hir ond roedd y pobl ifanc yn ffanstasteg gyda rhannu snaciau nhw a mwynheuodd pawb yr holl weithgareddau yna er y glaw!

Nos Wener roedd pawb yn gweithio fel tîm wrth ddringo ar y raffau uchel ac annog eu gilydd ar ‘Naid Ffydd’. Rhannon ni falos melys a siocled poeth ar ôl dechrau tân yn y gwylltcrefft mas yn y goedwig. Roedd Joseff Sant yn fuddugolaethus yn y pêl-osgoi yn erbyn ysgolion eraill ac rhedodd pawb am oriau tan hwyr yn chwarae pêl-droed a badminton.

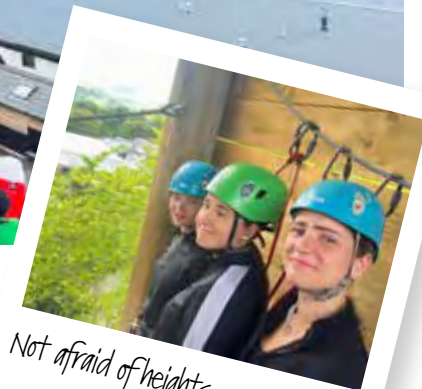
Roedd Dydd Sadwrn yn llawn antur. Dechreuodd gyda nofio yn y pwll cyn cyfeiriannu ac wedyn sesiynau canŵio ar lyn Tegid prydferth. Roedd llawer o lafarganu ‘Adam...Rowland...Adam...

Rowland!’ er mwyn helpu pawb cadw amser wrth rwyfo ac archwilio’r llyn yn y glaw! Nerfus oedd pawb i eistedd ar y rafftau a adeiladon nhw mas o raff, bareli a phren ond yn y pen draw roedden nhw’n addas i’r mor... jyst!

Sesiwn dwbl o badlfwrddio oedd y gweithgaredd ar gyfer y bore Sul ar ôl y disgo nos Sadwrn a mwy o chwaraeon yn y neuadd. Pawb wedi blino ond yn dal ati a rhoi’r gorau iddi mewn siwtiau-glwyb oer. Uchafbwyntiau oedd cwrdd a’r buchod, gwneud neidiau a fflipiau mewn i’r ddŵr a cheisio boddi Mr Burton a Mr Davies yn y llyn!

Diolch yn fawr iawn i’r Urdd am y daith, disgyblion gwych blwyddyn naw am gymryd rhan mewn popeth a Mr Ward, Mr Davies a Miss Griffiths am gefnogi Mr Burton a Miss Read o Adran y Gymraeg gyda’r daith.





Paddles up for the teachers too!



At the end of the busy summer term, the Welsh Department went to the Urdd Activity Centre in Glan-Ilyn, North Wales with 44 students from Year 9. It was a long four hour journey but the young people were fantastic with sharing snacks and everyone enjoyed all the activities despite the rain.

On Friday night, everyone was working as a team whilst climbing on the high ropes course and encouraging each other on the 'leap of faith'. We all shared marshmallows and hot chocolate around the fires we staved in the bushcraft activity out in the woods.

St Joseph's were victorious in dodgeball against the other schools and everyone ran around for hours until late at night playing badminton and football.

Saturday was full of adventure. It started with swimming in the pool before orienteering and then a canoeing session on the beautiful lake Tegid. There was lots of chanting, 'Adam... Rowland... Adam... Rowland!' to help keep time whilst rowing and exploring the lake in the rain! Everyone was nervous to sit on the rafts that they built out of rope, barrels and logs but in the end they proved to be seaworthy...mostly!

A double session of paddle boarding was the activity for Sunday morning after the Saturday night disco and more sports in the hall. Everyone tired but carrying on and doing their best in their cold wet suits. The highlights were meeting the herd of cows, jumping and back flipping into the lake and trying to drown Mr Burton and Mr Davies in the lake!

A big thanks to the Urdd for the whole trip, to the fantastic students in year nine for taking part in everything and to Mr Ward, Mr Davies and Miss Griffiths for supporting Mr Burton and Miss Read from the Welsh Department with the trip.



MONTY WHO?

Sub Head

The EC(H)O team are very grateful to Ethel and Vanessa at Climate Cymru as they helped us obtain a small grant to plant a new garden on our school site. Firstly, pupils were asked and interviewed about the importance of flowers and plants in our ecosystem before they were tasked with some basic garden designs. Then on a blazing hot day! we planted the donations with great success. If any families have native (non-invasive) plants to donate, we still have more space in the garden patch and we would be very grateful.

We also need to thank Greenmoor Nurseries as they donated plants, top soil and peat free compost. Please support this local business and advertise them to family and friends. Greenmoor Nurseries, St Brides, Wentloog, Newport, NP10 8SQ Tel: 01633 680572

Thanks as well to the site staff and Miss Holder for taking over watering duty in the summer holidays!



Announcement: Isabelle Adams and Miroslava Gryshyn have been nominated as the next two leaders of our Eco Club, beginning in September 2025. If you wish to join them in this wonderful club and help look after our school green spaces, please see them or Mr Nunn.

“Many thanks all, it’s been a blast working and learning with you all. Kind regards, Aidan”

We would like to wish Aidan luck in his new journey, studying Wildlife Conservation Biology at University of Gloucester and thank him for all the love and enthusiasm he has put into starting the ECO Club.

A WHALES TAIL (THE TALE OF A WHALE)

Many of our regular library users are also active members of the St Joseph's EC(H)O environmental group, so when The Reading Agency (thereadingagency.org) contacted us to let us know about a library display competition, the group sprang into action.

Their mission? To create an attractive and imaginative display and inspire St Joseph's pupils and staff to think about the impact of waste on the earth's Ocean. With the help of Ms McCarthy (librarian), Miss Griffiths (Product Design and Technology), and Mrs Neal (Art), some of our creative Year 7 pupils built and painted a huge Whale tail diving into a pile of plastic bottles, cans and other rubbish collected from around the school. We also compiled a list of books with a nature theme which are on display in the library alongside a copy of 'Ocean' by Sir David Attenborough and Colin Butfield, which was gifted to schools by The Reading Agency.

We think our Whale turned out beautifully and is an impactful visual representation of the damage that can be done to the environment if we don't think about how we dispose of litter. What is encouraging, is the fact that the rubbish we used was largely collected from the recycling bins around the school – proving that at St Joseph's we continue to do a great job of reducing, recycling and reusing.

Thank you to Mr Nunn for all his support with this project. Wish us luck in the competition!

Flying the nest!

It's not just Year 11 flying the nest this summer. The EC(HO) environmental group have achieved a lot this year thanks to the support and initiative of Aidan Dempsey in Year 13. Following on from 22-23 we have retained our link with Gwent Wildlife Trust who kindly donated some bird boxes.

It has then been a wonderful site to see blue tits utilise these boxes and bring up baby chicks which have now 'flown the nest'. May they fly happily forever and may their songs always lift our hearts!



Click here to watch Aidan's Instagram post of Bird Box No3.

Click here to watch Aidan's Instagram post of Bird Box No5.

Summer Message



“Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, The Lord has done great things for them. The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

Psalm 126: 2-3

Summer is a beautiful season. Flowers are in bloom, and the sun shines. School is out, and the pace is often slower, making it a time of refreshment and renewal. Summer takes us into holiday time, when in families the rhythms of work change, children and adults may spend more time together, positively or negatively as such an experience may be. Holidays can take us into different environments, give opportunities for exploration and expansion of horizons. ‘This is my body’ becomes an invitation to contemplate the risen Jesus in the other, to experience the presence of God in human encounters. Summer is joyous because of God’s grace and benevolence. The summer season gives us opportunities to discover the body of Christ in new and revitalizing ways.

Summer can also be sometimes stressful. While we look forward to going on holiday, sometimes we feel stress getting packed, meeting our itineraries, and paying for everything. We may share apprehensions as our children are joining a new school or new year group or as our young adult children prepare to go off to college or university.

Because of its slower pace, summer often provides us with time to reflect. We reflect upon the year so far; we reflect upon this summer and past summers. While we sometimes wallow in the difficult aspects of our lives, God hopes that we will spend time dwelling on the positive, joyful parts of our life.

God made summer as a foretaste of heaven. Summer is important in helping us to remember that God is with us no matter what happens. They also help us remain joyful and let that joy flow and bless the lives of others.

Jesus Christ is the refreshing centre of summer. He is pre-eminent in all things (Colossians 1:18), including holidays and picnics and summer games and long walks and BBQs. He invites us this summer: “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28). This is serious summer refreshment.

Dear God,
In this season of vitality,
we pray for the gift of
good health and happiness.
May our bodies be strong,
our minds at peace, and
our hearts filled with joy.
Bless us with the energy
to embrace every moment
and the gratitude to cherish
each day.
Amen.



Youth Chaplaincy

CAFOD

This year, the Youth Chaplaincy has raised over £800 for CAFOD through CAFOD Cafe which will continue to run in September. In Youth Chaplaincy meetings, they have explored the virtues of each term, explored Biblical scripture as well as learned about Pope Leo 14th. Throughout the year, the youth chaplaincy have embraced the seasons of the liturgical year through different activities like Lent cubes (see pic attached). Pupils have supported the Catholic ethos of the school by raising awareness about CAFOD and they have explored what the Jubilee Year is and how they can be pilgrims of hope.

Chapel

Each year group have had different opportunities to go over to the chapel to support their spiritual development. Pupils have gone to the chapel to pray the Stations of the Cross, the Sacred Heart, the Rosary and they have visited the chapel for retreats with the theme of hope, in line with the Year of Hope.



Proud Polish

by Nina Hilton

In June I was given the opportunity to speak about Polish identity and heritage at the Senedd. I embraced this opportunity and really spoke with pride about my roots and what being Polish means to me. I would encourage everyone in our community to be proud of who you are and to always value your heritage and your family history!

If you are Polish and interested in learning more please contact Ludek a Newport based Polish community group. **Dziękuję, Nina**

[Click here to watch Nina's speech](#)

Cyber Security Airbus Trip

As Year 10 Computer Science students, our visit to Airbus was an unforgettable experience. We met industry experts, explored the world of cyber security, and got a rare glimpse of high-level equipment and operations. Airbus, a global leader in commercial aviation, defence, and space, gave us insight into the importance of security in protecting sensitive government work. Due to the nature of their work, we had to surrender our electronics and were closely escorted throughout the visit—even to the bathroom—which

only added to the sense of excitement! We were shown a fascinating presentation outlining Airbus's work on everything from fighter jets and satellites to helicopters and commercial aircraft. We spoke to an electrical engineer specialising in robotics and AI, learning how long-lasting systems are developed and maintained by expert teams. We were also surprised to learn about the environmental impact of AI technologies like ChatGPT, including the high energy and water usage needed to cool

the systems. Later, we met apprentices working in Airbus' cyber security division and gained valuable career insights from a final speaker, Gareth who is one of the leading cyber threat hunters for Airbus, who explained the many different roles in the field. We discovered that passion and experience matter more than specific subjects studied.

The visit was truly inspiring and has motivated many of us as we begin to consider our future pathways and A-level options.



Year 10 CyberGirls Trip

While most students were enjoying a well-earned lie-in on INSET day, 15 of our dedicated Year 10 Computer Science students chose to spend their morning exploring the world of cyber security at the CyberGirls event, hosted by CyberFirst at Cardiff Metropolitan University's Llandaff Campus. The day offered a rich programme of activities, beginning with inspiring talks from women working in the cyber security industry. These sessions highlighted the diverse career paths available and provided valuable insights into how different routes can lead into this dynamic and growing sector.

Students then took part in hands-on workshops, including one on asymmetric encryption using physical props – a box, two locks, and a set of keys – to demonstrate the principles behind secure digital communication. In another interactive session, students became cyber investigators, working with the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to analyse digital footprints and uncover key pieces of intelligence. One of the highlights of the day was a thought-provoking session on Computing and the Law, which encouraged students to explore the sometimes-blurred lines between legal frameworks and ethical considerations. Our students rose to the challenge of a mock courtroom trial, with Genevieve, Deedee, Faith and Isabella confidently stepping into the roles of barristers and defendants.

The event concluded with an exciting Capture the Flag competition, where students worked in small teams to solve a series of cyber puzzles. This tested their computational thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills – and our students absolutely shone. It was great to see all the girls being so enthusiastic about the competition, and our own Seren Adams won a prize (Amazon vouchers) for highest answer accuracy!

A fantastic day full of learning, challenge, and inspiration – well done to all who took part!

COMPUTER SCIENCE



AIRBUS

Cyber Explorers

Written by Arabela Pinera and Isabelle Adams

During March and April, we (Arabela Pinera, Isabelle Adams, Emme Jones and Olly LDC) completed a group of challenges for the Cyber Explorers Award. By doing these challenges we had the opportunity to receive qualifications similar to a GCSE. The challenges ranged in difficulty and used aspects from many areas of computer science including digital forensics and open-source intelligence. They were also split into two sections, Challenges (easier) and Missions (harder). Through this we were also able to discover some different career paths with the cyber industry.

The Challenge section included us helping characters solve problems. For example, telling an influencer what they can and cannot post on social media for their own safety (like their passwords and etc). In the Missions section, we would be presented with a task that we must complete, utilising more advanced cyber skills. At the end of each section, we would have a final challenge, a final boss, which would challenge our knowledge that we previously learnt in the smaller sections which would create the bulk of the challenges and missions.

The Cyber Explorers Cup is a UK-wide, government-backed cybersecurity competition designed for students aged 11-14. It is part of the Cyber Explorers educational programme - a free online learning platform created by the UK government that teaches young learners cybersecurity basics such as digital forensics, encryption, secure communication, network security, and the UK's Computer Misuse Act.



MINECRAFT CLUB

By SJHS Digital Leaders

Over the course of this year we have been running a KS3 Minecraft club. We have held three competitions designed to help members to develop their cyber skills and to gain more interest in the field of graphic design. As a school, we have been aiming to strike the interest of the younger year groups and allow them to see the endless possibilities that exist within Computer Science. Part of our plan with the Minecraft Club was to give pupils the opportunity to take part in different areas of computer science they don't see in lessons.

Our first competition, 'Grand Designs: A Minecraft Challenge', was designed to give the pupils a taste of what graphic design is like. We asked pupils to get into small groups and design a building and they were judged on their creativity, technical skills and their ability to work in a team. It was important to us that we allowed pupils to develop their conversational and social skills, alongside skills that are a key part of computer science. Year 8 team, 'The Humblers' excelled and won the competition by over seven points. We are extremely proud of the work this team put into their design. They made a computer system within Minecraft that depicted another game of Minecraft, this extremely innovative design captured the attention of all the digital leaders and several members of staff.

So a huge congratulations to Charlie Vaughan, Nimrod Kekesi and Caelan Jays from 8V, you truly blew us away! Further congratulations to all the other pupils that took part in this competition, we are proud of you all and cannot believe how well you have done!

Our second competition was designed to appeal to the cyber security side of computer science. We wanted to show the pupils how many different fields you can go into within this technological sector. The competition, 'Attack the Egg', required pupils to get into small groups and build some form of protective system that would stop the digital leaders from reaching a hidden egg within a set time limit (3 minutes). They were again judged on their creativity, security and teamworking skills. Year 9 team named 'Oopy Goopy' won - their design demonstrated excelled graphic design and amazing security. None of the three digital leaders were able to penetrate their design within the time limit. So another big congratulations to **May Vincent and Deona Danie in 9E** for winning this competition and demonstrating the true value of cyber security within today's society, and well done to all the other pupils who took part in this competition as you once again blew us away!

Our final competition is still in progress, designed to allow the pupils to explore the capabilities of technology, whilst enjoying! We gave the pupils a brief to design a new ride for the theme park Alton Towers, so we are very excited to see what the pupils come up with and hope that they will continue to demonstrate the best of their abilities.

As Digital Leaders we aim to inspire the younger pupils to get involved with technology and be aware of the many opportunities that exist within computer science if they want to explore that field of work. We hope that through this club and many other things we are able to achieve this.

The digital leaders would like to thank the St Joseph's IT Department - their generous offer to give up their Monday lunchtimes and allow us to take over their classrooms enables us to provide younger pupils with these experiences. Thanks, The Digital Leaders.



AN EXCITTING TRANSITION



SJHS Transition Days

Throughout June, we undertook a range of different transition experiences with our Primary cluster schools to help our new Year 7 pupils acclimatise to life in high school as smoothly as possible.

We extended our very successful Mock High School week to the majority of our cluster primary schools, and over 40 lessons by 28 members of staff from the high school were delivered to Year 6 pupils. At the start of July, we welcomed all of our new Year 7 pupils and their parents into school to experience what life is like in high school.

Parents and pupils were able to meet their new form tutor. This was followed by two days in St Joseph's where pupils had the opportunity to attend different subjects and spend more time with their form tutor. During the two days, they toured the school, attended lessons and were expertly supported by our Transition Ambassadors, who even produced a film to welcome them (with the help of Mrs Kent). They even had a whole day dedicated to wellbeing activities, superbly led by our PE department. The day ended with our transition Mass in school.

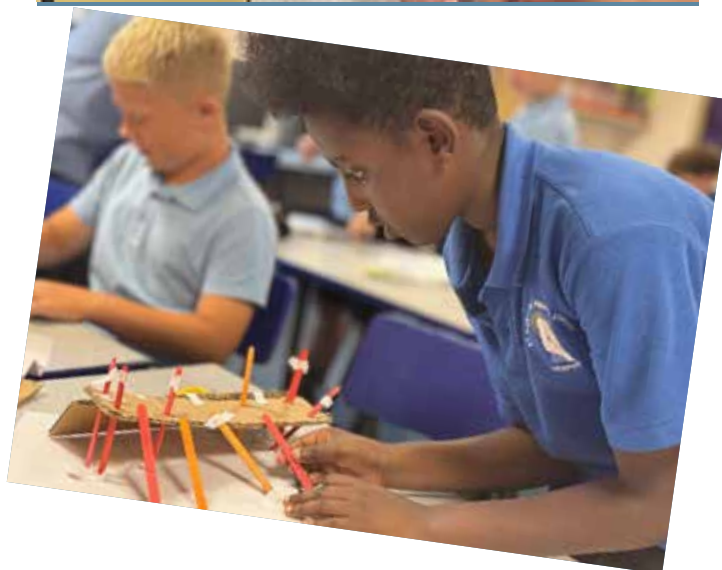


This was a wonderful way to end the two days, uniting our primary schools together and celebrating the start of their new journey in St Joseph's.

We were very lucky to have been so effectively supported by our primary colleagues during all of these events.

We are very excited to welcome our new Year 7 pupils in September, and whilst we know that moving up to a new school can be daunting, we are sure that these experiences will help alleviate some of the worries.

Click here to visit SJHS Transition



With a welcome return for a fourth year, the Velindre Enterprise Fair was yet again a huge success...

<https://www.velindrefundraising.com/>



A special mention to Mr Willis, who bravely agreed to having his head shaved for the Velindre cause - the 3 year old ponytail got it!!!!



Velindre Cancer Centre provides specialist cancer and blood services across South and Mid Wales through Velindre Cancer Centre and the Welsh Blood Service. Delivering quality, care and excellence to their patients and donors is at the heart of their organisation.

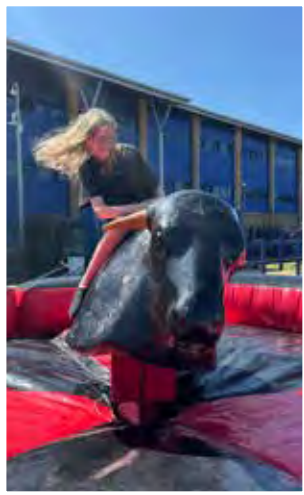
This year, Year 10 raised £5912.26 as creative and innovative entrepreneurs, producing and selling hand crafted products.

The Velindre Enterprise Fair, held under sunny skies and warm weather, was a vibrant and successful event organised by Mrs Price, Head of Welsh Baccalaureate. The fair brought energy, creativity, and community spirit together - all in support of a truly worthy cause.

With all proceeds donated to Velindre Cancer Care Charity, the event not only raised over £5,600 but also raised awareness among students about the importance of giving back.

#VELINDRE





Year 10 raised an enormous £5912.26

The fairground atmosphere was alive with excitement thanks to the thrilling fairground ride 'Insania' and five inflatable attractions, including the ever-popular Rodeo Bull, Last Man Standing, and Total Wipeout. These challenges were a hit with students, creating a lively and competitive spirit throughout the day.

Complementing the action were the craft stalls, which showcased a range of high-quality, creative products made by talented Year 10 students. From handmade gifts to unique designs, the stalls reflected

the entrepreneurial flair and imagination of the pupils involved. Despite the heat, the event was a huge success, very well organised, safe, and full of energy. Thanks to the leadership of Mrs Price, the Year 10 Welsh Baccalaureate Team and the hard work of students and staff, the Velindre Enterprise Fair not only brought joy to those attending but made a meaningful difference through its charitable efforts.

A fantastic day for a fantastic cause.
The planning for July 2026 begins ...

#TeamWelshBaccalaureate







Year 13 Chemistry Trip

Year 13 Students visited Swansea University on the 1st May 2025, to prepare for an A-level Chemistry Unit 5 practical exam. The focus of the visit was to master experimental techniques, understanding relevant calculations, and practicing data analysis.

Throughout the trip, students represented the school with maturity and enthusiasm. Their behaviour was exemplary, and the staff were immensely proud of how they represented the school. A huge thank you to Dr Roberts and Mr Pavey for making this trip possible, and to the students for making it such a memorable and rewarding experience.

Year 12 Chemistry Trip

On the 26th June 2025 Year 12 students visited Swansea University, as part of the "Science for Schools Scheme" which provides free, hands-on science workshops, including potential chemistry support, for A2 practical's. Students were able to undertake a number of organic synthesis practical's during the day.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were engaged throughout. Their behaviour was exemplary, and the staff were immensely proud of how they represented the school. A huge thank you to Dr Roberts, Mr Pavey and Mr Forster for making this trip possible, and to the students for making it such a memorable and rewarding experience.

CHEMISTRY

SCIENCE

Good luck to all our Year 13 pupils going to study Chemistry related degrees at university.

SPORTS DAYS 2025

Sports Day at St Joseph's is always a very popular event in the academic year, this is why we had two! All year groups 7 & 8 then 9 & 10 were not only a credit to themselves and their forms, but also for us as a whole school community.

Both pupils and staff got fully involved in traditional and non-competitive activities. Each year group took part in eight events within their form classes, where they could gain points to coincide with our Catholic virtues for this term Learned and Wise. Points were awarded for teamwork and for all pupils in each form participating. Although there were points available to win for each form class, pupil participation and enjoyment was at the forefront of each sports day.

Pupils did also get to experience some of the traditional athletic events with all form classes competing against each other. It was great to see so many pupils involved, displaying great sportsmanship, resilience, determination, and amazing effort. There were overall form winners for each year groups, but each pupil should be extremely proud of their achievements and performances.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, parents, carers and other home links for your continued support and commitment towards our sporting extracurricular clubs this year! **We wish you a restful summer and are looking forward to seeing many more of you in September to continue building on our successes from this year in all our extra curricular activities and teams.**

Much love, Mr O'Driscoll and the PE Team





YR7&8





YR9&10



RESULTS & RECORDS

Records broken and new ones made - we are super proud of these superstars...

Year 7

800m Girls - Lily Hodge - 2mins 46 secs

Year 8

800m Girls - Isabella Peter - 2min 37secs

Long Jump Boys

Anish Shetty & Gabriel Krawcewicz - 4.7m

Year 9

Long Jump Girls - Beatrice Norrie - 3.62m

Javelin - Sara Bradshaw - 23.48m (old record held since 2005!!!)

Year 10

100m Boys - Sion Jobi - 11.03secs

Year 7	J	O	S	E	P	H	T	V
Points	189	162	117	85	131	142	130	123
Position	1st	2nd	7th	8th	5th	3rd	6th	4th

Year 8	J	O	S	E	P	H	T	V
Points	145	145	174	121	196	133	131	152
Position	6th	3rd	2nd	7th	1st	8th	5th	4th

Year 9	J	O	S	E	P	H	T	V
Points	122	156	179	175	143	148	114	123
Position	7th	3rd	1st	2nd	5th	4th	8th	6th

Year 10	J	O	S	E	P	H	T	V
Points	157	119	116	137	181	123	158	107
Position	3rd	6th	7th	4th	1st	5th	2nd	8th

Congratulations to all the winning forms, and every pupil who added points to their form tally can also be super proud of their contributions. A big thank you to all staff and pupil helpers for all your efforts, without your help these amazing whole school events don't happen.

A LEVEL GALLERY



Snake
Fine detail
Coloured
pencil drawing
by **Marcus
Gibbons-
Barrington**



Symmetry Pen drawing on
vellum on bamboo frame
with wire tree sculpture
by **Oliver Rocke**

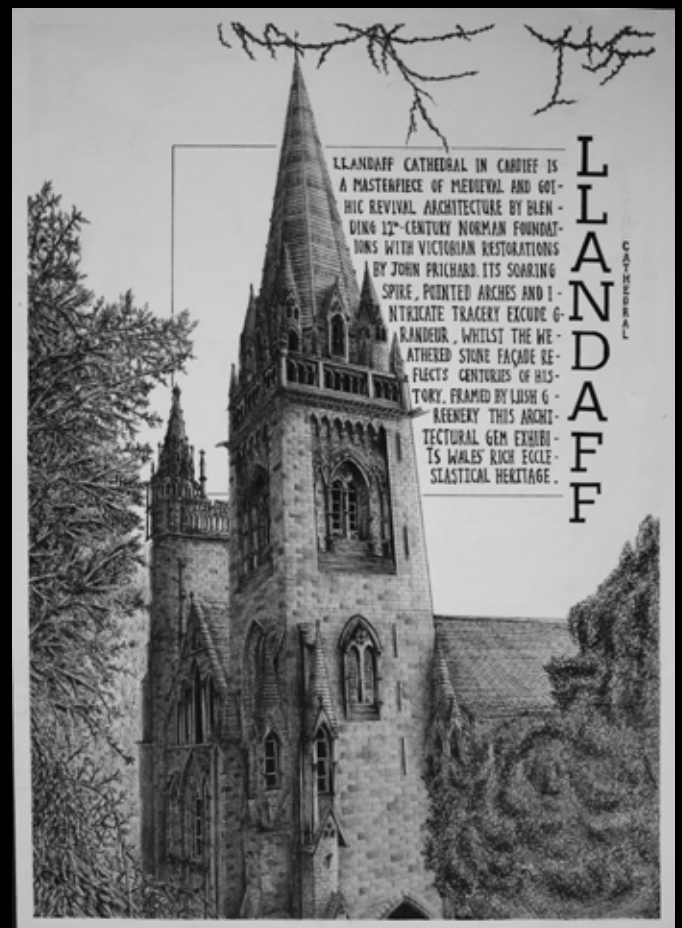


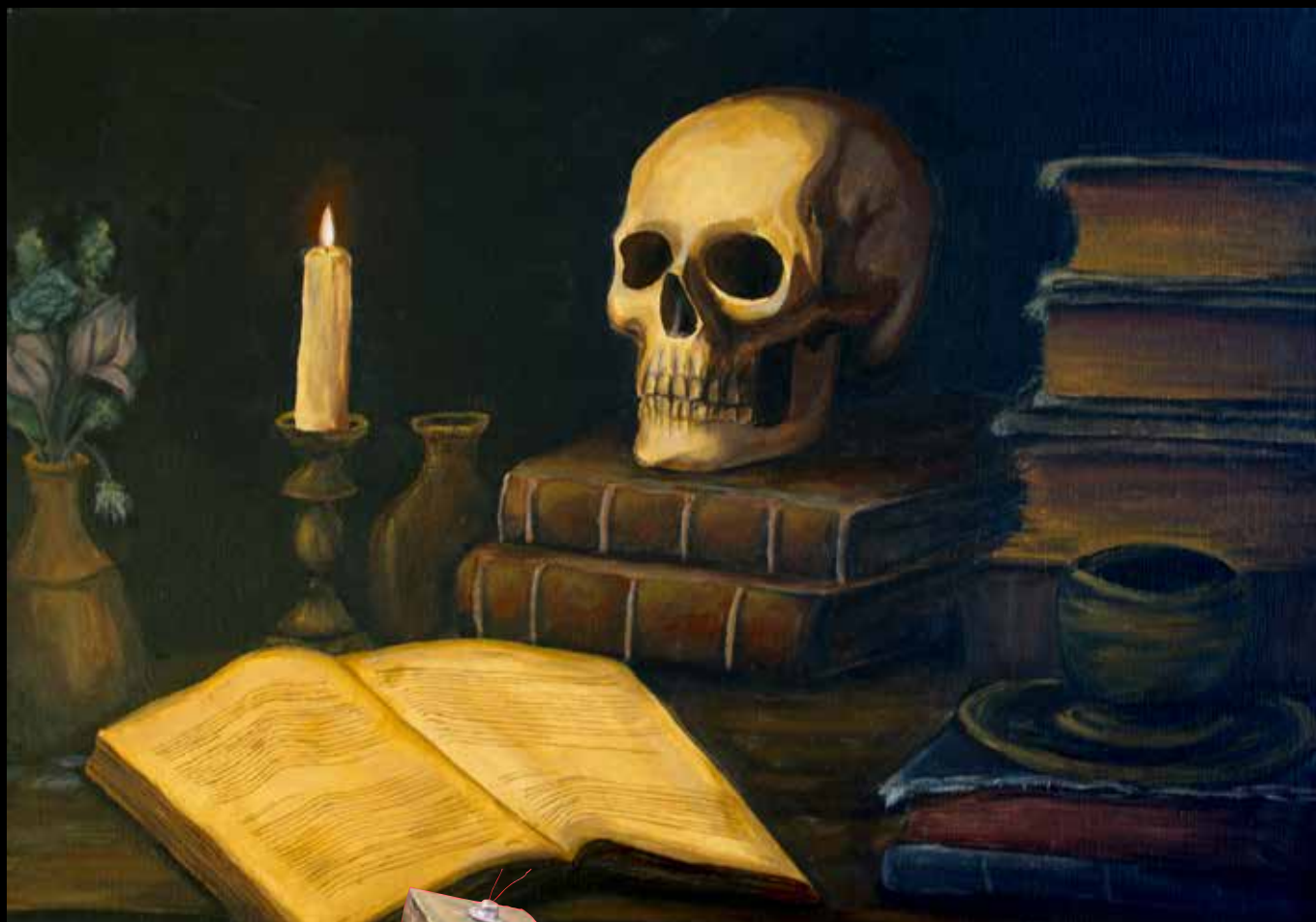
(Above) **Sunset** Pastel Drawing by **Jane Kunje**

(Below) **Architectural City Collage** by **Amelia Sroka**



Llandaff Cathedral Fine detail pencil drawing by **Joe Cross**





Skull Oil painting by **Ella Perrott**



(Above left) **Seeds** Litho print by **Marcus Gibbons-Barrington**



(Above right) **'Jericho'** Sculpture by **Bethan Spruce**

Woman Mixed Media painting by **Anastasiia Kolotusha**



Turtle Resin and mosaic mixed media by **Anna-Lucia Petschenyk**



GCSE GALLERY



Jellyfish Pastel drawing
by **Anna Pittapillil**



Lillies Acrylic painting by **Allyssa Salvador**



Apple core Painting by **Lotti Kekesi**



Portrait Mixed Media
by **Evie Hudson**



Turtle Acrylic painting by **Elianna Kharsaw**



Family Mixed Media by **Jamimah Mitchell**

SJHS ART SHOW



We had a fabulous night in the Art Department last week with an exclusive look at the collection of works for GCSE, AS & A Level projects. It was a very special opportunity to celebrate our art pupils creativity, dedication and the culmination of months of work. Absolutely spectacular talent.



ART/MEDIA GO TO HOLLYWOOD

A Cinematic Adventure! Over the Easter break, a group of film and art enthusiasts embarked on an unforgettable school trip to Los Angeles - a city known for its vibrant culture, art, and, of course, film. As a teacher accompanying the group, I was incredibly proud of how engaged and curious our students were throughout the journey.



Our adventure included a behind-the-scenes tour of Warner Brothers Studios. From exploring famous sets to learning about special effects, students gained real insight into the world of filmmaking. This experience was followed by a hands-on film workshop, where pupils worked in to plan and record a short horror film—some budding directors may have been born that day!

We balanced our film focus with a healthy dose of art and culture. At the Getty Centre, students were fascinated by both the architecture and the remarkable art collections, along. The Broad gallery offered a contrasting contemporary experience, sparking lively discussions about modern art and interpretation. Pupils were able to relax and take in the at Griffiths Observatory where we saw the Hollywood sign up close!

A guided walking tour gave everyone a chance to stretch their legs and learn more about LA's rich history including a walk down Rodeo Drive. We ended the trip with a relaxing afternoon at Santa Monica Pier, where students enjoyed some well-earned fun at the fair with a quick paddle in the Pacific Ocean. **It was a truly inspiring and educational journey—one we won't soon forget!**

Media Art Dream

by Faith Sabatia & Isabella Pogonaski



I hopped off the plane at LAX
With my snacks and my best drinks
Got welcomed to this land by famous friends,
I think i fit in,
Checked in at the hotel ready for the next day,
I know it might sound a bit cliché,
This is all so crazy,
Throwing away all our money,
My tummy's turnin' and I'm feeling kinda home sick,
Having fun no need to be nervous,
That's when the teachers turned on the radio,

And the Katy song was on,
And the Katy song was on,

So we sang all night long,
And we put our hands up,
Driving through Beverley Hills
Seeing the Hollywood sign,
This is our time shine,
So we put our hands up,
As we go through the day,
Partying the night away,
Yeah,

It's a party in the USA,
Yeah,
It's a party in the USA.

We went to Warner brothers studio,
And then we made our own movie,
The day before we were roaming around,
Like we're on TV,
Next day we hit Santa Monica Pier
Screamin' loud on the rides, no fear
Had cotton candy stickin' to my hands
Took photos like a popstar band

Now the week's flown by, it's time to go
But the memories still glow
From stars on the street to the city lights
We'll be dreamin' of these nights

So we put our hands up, headin' on our way
With the stories we'll always tell
LA treated us so well
So we put our hands up, one last hooray
Dancin' 'til the break of day
Yeahhhh

It's a party in the USA
Yeahhhh
It's a party in the USA

“Please can we go back again next year”

Mrs Neale would like to thank Miss Griffiths, Mr Lewis, Mrs Webster, Mrs Kent and Mrs Palmer-Buss for coming to LA and being so helpful throughout. A dream team indeed!



Mrs Kent said "I think might have been one of my favourites trips... not only did we all manage to get to see the Hollywood sign, sip coffee in Central Perk and see Superman's ACTUAL costume, all the pupils were totally amazing, beautifully behaved and great fun to spend time with outside of school. LOVE LA".

CONGRATS ARCHITECTURE WINNER

Joe Cross

Year 12 pupil Joe, won the prestigious Cambridge University Fitzwilliam College Architectural Design Competition

This was Joe's submitted design narrative:

**Seamless integration of interior and exterior spaces:
A sustainable design inspired by the built and natural
environment in Fitzwilliam College to enhance social
interaction.**

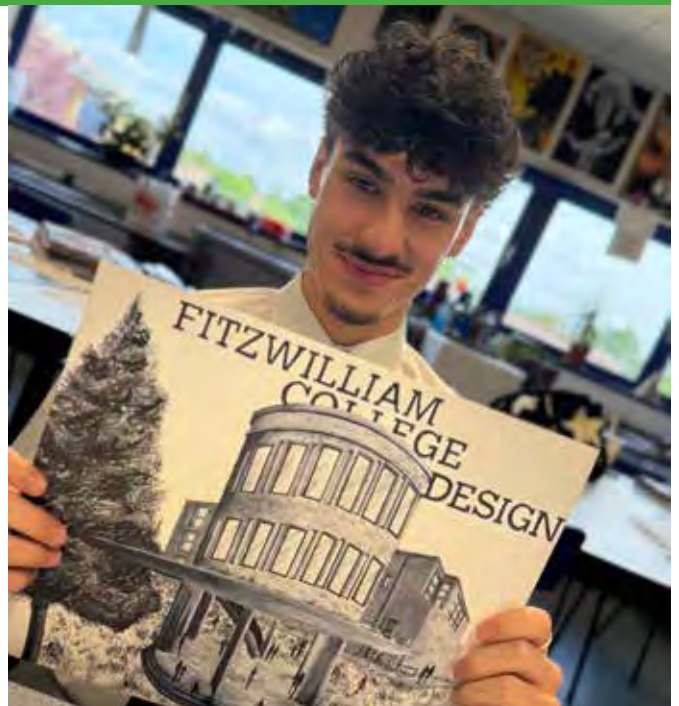
Embarking on a journey through Fitzwilliam College, I immersed myself in its architectural landscape through a self-guided tour, allowing me to conduct a comprehensive site analysis. This exploration involved a study of the site's topography, sun path and the social flow of students within the college, ensuring that my design would be contextually informed and functionally effective.

A significant observation was the congregation of students around the college café, which was overcrowded and lacked the spatial qualities conducive to a productive and serene atmosphere. Consequently, my primary design objective became the creation of an open, multifunctional hub that alleviates congestion whilst fostering an environment that promotes both collaboration and tranquillity.

Positioning the building was a critical decision. I situated it to the northeast of Wilson Court, adjacent to mature trees, ensuring minimal disruption to the existing ecological framework. Other potential locations, such as Fellows' Court, were dismissed due to the presence of mature trees and open spaces integral to the college's character. The selected site offered optimal solar orientation, allowing clerestory windows to harness daylight from east to west, cultivating a luminous and stimulating atmosphere that enhances productivity.

Fitzwilliam College's architectural identity is a juxtaposition of Brutalist and Modernist styles, exemplified by the geometric rigidity of New Court and the dynamic interplay of slants and curves in the Olisa Library. Inspired by this contrast, my design sought to synthesize these elements, ensuring that the hub coalesces with the existing architecture whilst maintaining a sense of familiarity for students and faculty. Additionally, the overarching theme of openness inherent in the college's design guided my approach, serving as a counterbalance to the over-stimulation experienced in the confined café space.

To achieve this, I extracted defining architectural features from various college buildings and amalgamated them into a cohesive vision. The clerestory windows from The Hall Building were incorporated to maximize natural illumination, whilst the cylindrical brick structure of the Olisa Library was reinterpreted and enveloped within a sleek, modern overhang that provides both shade and



aesthetic contrast. The ground floor was left entirely open, reinforcing the concept of fluidity between interior and exterior spaces, thus establishing a harmonious dialogue between built form and nature.

A recurring motif within the college is its intrinsic relationship with nature. The abundance of vegetation and the presence of wildlife contribute to an immersive experience that blurs the boundary between architecture and the natural world. Recognising this, I integrated verdant elements into my design, not only as an aesthetic complement but also as a functional component for additional roof insulation. This biophilic approach ensures that the building is not an imposition on the landscape but rather an extension of it, reinforcing the notion of coexistence with nature.

Ultimately, this design aspires to be more than just a structural solution to spatial congestion; it is envisioned as a sanctuary—an environment where students can retreat, surrounded by greenery, natural light and open space, experiencing the same immersive connection with nature that defines the essence of Fitzwilliam College.

Congratulations Joe - a spectacular achievement.

TURBINE SUPERSTARS



Sixty Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to design their own wind turbines using equipment supplied by a local solar farm company. They looked at different design ideas before drawing a prototype on paper and then trying to create it using different

scrap materials. Through excellent teamwork and thoughtful designs, the winners from the 1st group who generated the most power were Nina and Favour and the winner from the second group was Arabella.

KEY STAGE 3 AWARDS

An enormous congratulations to all the Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 pupils that have been awarded Attainment and Endeavour Awards for their hard work and resilience over the last academic year.



“It takes a village to raise a child”

An Igbo and Yoruba proverb, and one of Mrs Jarrett's favourites, conveying the message that it takes many people, 'the village', to provide a safe, healthy environment for young people, where they are given the security they need to develop and flourish, and to be able to realise their hopes and dreams. Mrs Jarrett has helped us ALL be part of our school village and has lead us with kindness, love and support for everyone in our St Joe's family.



Thank you Goodbye and goodluck Mrs Jarrett

There can be no doubt about Mrs Jarrett's unwavering loyalty, dedication, and commitment to the students and staff of St Joseph's RC High School. Throughout her time here, she has served in numerous leadership roles, but it is as our visionary Headteacher that her impact has been most profound. With the highest expectations for both students and staff, she has led by example - consistently modelling excellence, integrity, and determination in all she does.

Her influence on the lives of thousands of pupils and their families is truly immeasurable. Her legacy is reflected not only in the academic and personal successes of our students but also in the growth of our staff, many of whom have progressed to senior leadership roles elsewhere, inspired by her example and guidance.

Beyond her achievements in teaching and leadership, Mrs Jarrett has exemplified compassion, respect, and honesty. She has treated every member of our community with dignity, ensuring that each pupil receives the best possible start in life through outstanding education and rich learning opportunities.

Her kindness, professionalism, and tireless devotion will leave a lasting legacy at St Joseph's. We are deeply grateful to have shared in her remarkable leadership journey, and we count ourselves fortunate to have been part of this school under her inspirational guidance.

Thank you Mrs Jarrett, we will miss you.

[Click here for field footage!](#)



THANKYOU &FAREWELL

As we come to the end of the school year, we take a moment to say farewell and offer our heartfelt thanks to several valued colleagues who are leaving St Joseph's. Together, they represent over 162 years of dedicated service, an extraordinary contribution to the life and spirit of our school.

Dr Matthews has given an astonishing 32 years to St Joseph's, and he has truly been a cornerstone of the school. As a dedicated and much-respected figure in the Science department, Dr Matthew's impact has stretched far beyond the classroom. His deep subject knowledge, calm authority, and unwavering professionalism have inspired generations of students,

not only to understand science but to enjoy it, question it, and pursue it further. Dr Matthew's presence will be missed not just because of what he did, but because of who he is: a wise, compassionate, and principled member of our community. His legacy is felt in the achievements of his students, the respect of his peers, and the character of the department he helped shape. We thank him for all he has given and wish him every happiness in the years ahead.

Mrs Bailey, after an incredible 27 years of service, is leaving the Finance Office, where her expertise, reliability, and dedication have quietly supported the foundations of school life. Mrs Bailey's calm, professional approach and deep understanding of school systems have ensured that countless processes ran seamlessly, often without others even noticing the effort behind them. Her attention to detail, willingness to help, and behind-the-scenes commitment have been essential to the smooth running of the school. She leaves behind not only a legacy of competence and trust but

also the warm regard of all who have worked alongside her. She will be missed enormously.

After 22 years of devoted service at St Joseph's, we say a fond and deeply appreciative farewell to **Mrs McGuire**, who has been a cornerstone of our Inclusion team. Mrs McGuire's work as a Teaching Assistant has been nothing short of outstanding. With compassion, patience, and a deep understanding of the children she supported, she has played a vital role in nurturing and encouraging some of our most wonderful young people. Her calm presence, strong relationships, and unwavering commitment have helped countless students to thrive, both personally and academically. She has worked alongside staff, parents, and carers with warmth, professionalism, and absolute dedication to each individual child's needs. Her ability to connect, to listen, and to champion every student she supported is what made her such a powerful part of the team. We thank her for everything and wish her all the very best for the future.

After 21 years of dedicated service, we say a fond farewell to **Mrs Peake**, our Reprographics Officer, whose contribution to St Joseph's has been truly invaluable. For over two decades, she has been a constant source of support, ensuring that staff had everything they needed to be organised and prepared, and always delivering high-quality resources with care and professionalism. But it's not just her efficiency that we'll remember; it's her kindness, patience, and the way she always gave her best to make things easier for everyone else. Quietly working behind the scenes, she has been an essential part of our school community, helping things run smoothly with generosity and grace. Mrs Peake, thank you for your unwavering commitment and for always going the extra mile. Your warmth, thoughtfulness, and hard work have meant more than words can say. We wish you all the very best in the next chapter. You leave with our deepest gratitude and respect.

Mrs Allen retires after an incredible 20 years at the heart of our Examinations Office. Mrs Allen has been nothing short of a legend at St Joseph's. Generations of students have sat their exams under her organised, and quietly reassuring presence, never fully realising how much care and precision go into making each season run smoothly. Her attention to detail and tireless behind-the-scenes work have made her the linchpin of one of the most demanding roles in school life. She leaves behind a legacy of integrity, professionalism, and kindness that will be hard to match. Quite simply, the exam system won't be the same without her.

Miss Rice-Jones, who leaves us after nearly 17 years, has been a treasured member of the English department and a source of wisdom, warmth, and inspiration across the school. Miss Rice Jones' creativity and passion for literature have shaped the way countless students experience English at St Joseph's. Her lessons have always gone beyond the page, encouraging reflection, critical thinking, and empathy. With her calm and thoughtful manner, she's brought out the best in every learner, always recognising their individual potential. Her quiet strength, kindness, and integrity have left a lasting impression, and her influence will

be felt long after she leaves. We thank her for her unwavering commitment and wish her nothing but happiness and fulfilment in the years ahead.

Mr Cogan, our Head of Physics for nearly 7 years, has brought energy, clarity, and high standards to the department. Under his leadership, Physics has flourished, not just in outcomes, which have been consistently excellent, but in popularity and enthusiasm among students. Mr Cogan has the ability to explain complex concepts in ways that engage and inspire. He has instilled confidence in students at every level, encouraging many to pursue the subject beyond GCSE and A-level. His lessons have combined rigour with encouragement, and his calm, thoughtful presence has made a lasting impression on countless learners. Thanks to Mr Cogan, the Physics department is stronger, more aspirational, and more popular than ever. We are grateful for the dedication he has shown to our students and to the St Joseph's community, and we wish him every success and happiness in his next chapter.

We also say goodbye to

Miss Crowley, who has been with us for nearly 5 years. In that time, she has made a wonderful contribution to the life of the school, particularly within the RE department, where her warmth, energy, and genuine commitment to her students have truly stood out. Miss Crowley has taught with compassion and clarity, always striving to make RE meaningful and accessible to every student. Her lessons have encouraged thoughtful reflection and respectful dialogue, qualities that are so important in our school community. Beyond the classroom, Miss Crowley's pastoral care has been exceptional. She has shown real attentiveness and kindness to students, supporting their wellbeing and always making time to listen. Her calm, approachable nature and instinctive care have made a big difference in the lives of many young people. Miss Crowley has been a valued and respected member of staff, and she will be greatly missed by colleagues and pupils alike. We wish her the very best in her next chapter in Ireland.

We also thank **Miss Trowbridge**, our Cover Supervisor for the past 4 years, whose reliability, positivity, and calm

presence have made her a truly valued part of daily life at St Joseph's. Miss Trowbridge has stepped into countless lessons across all departments, bringing consistency, care, and structure wherever she's been needed. She has given fully to this role, taking on every challenge with a sense of purpose and always striving to do her best for the pupils in her care. Whether supporting individual students, maintaining routines, or simply offering a listening ear, Miss Trowbridge has consistently gone above and beyond. We are so grateful for all she has contributed, and we wish her every success and happiness in what comes next in Bristol.

From the Maths team, we say a warm and grateful goodbye to **Mrs Williams**, who has been with us for five years. She has been an incredibly calm, clear, and dependable presence in the classroom, someone pupils trusted and learned from, year after year. Her lessons were always well-structured, and her quiet encouragement helped so many young people grow in both skill and confidence. She was always approachable, always ready to help, and always willing to go that little bit further, for her students and for her colleagues. She's been a steady and supportive figure in the department, and a genuinely lovely person to work with. Mrs Williams, thank you for everything. Wishing you every happiness and fulfilment in the future.

We also give thanks to **Mrs Knox**, who has been with us for 2 years. While her time at St Joseph's may have been shorter, her contribution has been every bit as meaningful. A committed and capable Maths teacher, Mrs Knox quickly earned the respect of both colleagues and pupils alike. We wish Mrs Knox all the very best as she moves on to new opportunities, and we thank her for all she has brought to St Joseph's.

Each of you leaves behind a legacy of kindness, dedication and care. You've helped shape the St Joseph's community in ways both big and small, and we are the better for it.

We wish you every happiness and success in whatever comes next. Thank you, and goodbye.

Dates for your diary 2025

Autumn Term TYMOR Y HYDREF

September	
1	Inset Day
2	Year 7 Academic year begins
3	Years 8,9,10 11 & 13 Academic year begins
5	Year 12 Induction
10	KS4&5 Celebration Evening
11	School Photographs (Years 7, 9, 11 & 13)
30	Year 7 Pastoral Evening
October	
3	CAFOD Family Fast Day
	Year 7 Welcome Mass
21-23	Open Mornings
27-31	Half Term

November	
19-20	Flu Immunisations
21	Inset Day
24	Inset Day
25	Year 8 Parents' Evening
December	
1	Year 12 Parents' Evening
8-12	Mission Week
9	Year 13 Parents' Evening
17	Advent Service
19	Last Day of Term

Please be aware that if there are any unforeseen circumstances, these dates might change.

Catch the St Joseph's RC High School news as it happens on:

www.sjhs.org.uk

twitter.com/sjhsnewport

www.facebook.com/stjosephsnewport

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